In the claims:

1. An imaging system, comprising:

a platen;

an imager, the imager being disposed in the imaging system to detect an image of an original in a scanned region of the platen;

a cover, wherein an underside of the cover includes an identifiable pattern disposed over the platen; and

a processor, wherein the processor is capable of processing a scanned image of an original from the imager to generate a digital image file, and wherein the processor is capable of recognizing the identifiable pattern and removing data from regions of the digital image file including the identifiable pattern.

2. The imaging system of claim 1, comprising:

rollers disposed in the system to advance originals through the system, wherein the rollers include the identifiable pattern.

3. The imaging system of claim 1, comprising:

a controller, wherein the controller controls scanning by the imager.

4. The imaging system of claim 1, wherein the processor uses a pattern matching algorithm to recognize the identifiable pattern.

5. A method of generating a digital image file, comprising:

scanning an image of a scanned region while an original is located in the scanned region;

generating a digital image file from the scan;

detecting an identifiable pattern in the digital image file, wherein the identifiable pattern is adjacent to the original; and

removing image data from a portion of the digital image file including the identifiable pattern.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of removing image data includes the step of:

executing a pattern matching algorithm, wherein the pattern matching algorithm compares a stored version of the identifiable pattern with the digital image file.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of detecting an identifiable pattern comprises:

detecting an identifiable pattern located on at least one of an underside of a cover and a roller of an imaging system.

1   8. The method of claim 5, comprising:

2   storing the digital image file after removing the image data.

3   9. he method of claim 5, comprising:

4   producing a copy of the original using the digital image file.

5   10. An imaging system, comprising:

6   a platen;

7   an imager disposed in the imaging system to detect an image of an original in a

8   scanned region of the platen;

9   a cover, wherein an underside of the cover is disposed over the platen; and

10 a processor, wherein the processor is capable of processing a digital image file

11 from a scan of an original, and wherein the processor is capable of storing image data

12 from a preliminary scan of the scanned region and comparing the image data from the

13 preliminary scan with the digital image file and removing extraneous images from the

14 digital image file based on the comparison.

15 11. The imaging system of claim 10, wherein the processor uses a pattern

16 matching algorithm to compare image data from the preliminary scan with the digital

17 image file.

18 12. A method of generating a digital image file, comprising:

19 performing one or more preliminary scans of a scanned region without an original

20 present;

21 storing image data from the preliminary scan;

22 scanning the scanned region while an original is present in the scanned region;

23 generating a digital image file from the scan of the original; and

24 removing extraneous image data from the digital image file based on a

25 comparison of the digital image file with the image data from the one or more preliminary

26 scans.

27 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of removing image data comprises:

28 executing a pattern matching algorithm to match image data from the one or more

29 preliminary scans with the digital image file.

30 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of performing one or more

31 preliminary scans comprises:

32 performing periodic preliminary scans.

33 15. The method of claim 12, comprising:

1   generating a message indicating that maintenance or cleaning of an imaging

2   system is required based on the preliminary scan.

3   16.   A method of generating a digital image file, comprising:

4   scanning a scanned region while an original is located in the scanned region;

5   generating a digital image file from the scan;

6   detecting at least one of a background color and a background pattern of the

7   original from the digital image file; and

8   filling in a region of the digital image file with at least one of the background

9   color and background pattern.

10   17.   The method of claim 16, wherein the step of detecting at least one of a

11   background color and a background pattern comprises:

12   detecting at least one of a background color and a background pattern that

13   comprises greater than a predetermined amount of an area of the scanned region.

14   18.   The method of claim 16, wherein the step of detecting at least one of a

15   background color and a background pattern comprises:

16   detecting at least one of a background color and a background pattern that

17   comprises greater than a predetermined amount of an area of the original.

18   19.   A method of generating a digital image file, comprising:

19   scanning a scanned region while an original is located in the scanned region;

20   generating a digital image file from the scan;

21   detecting at least one of a background color and a background pattern of the

22   original from the digital image file; and

23   removing image data from the digital image file lying outside of a region of the

24   digital image file having the at least one of a background color and a background pattern.

25   20.   The method of claim 19, wherein the step of detecting at least one of a

26   background color and a background pattern comprises:

27   detecting at least one of a background color and a background pattern that

28   comprises greater than a predetermined amount of an area of the original.